

# PECATONICA TOWNSHIP

P O BOX 556, 410 REED STREET  
PECATONICA, ILLINOIS 61063I  
Telephone: (815) 239-1555  
Email: pectwnsp@frontier.com

*Elizabeth Leigh Clark, Township Supervisor*  
*Kelly Olson- Fuca, Township Clerk*

*Trustees: Brian Boomer, Joseph Schroepfer*  
*Vernell Sarver and John Wiegert*

---

February 24, 2025

Contact: Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer, Attorney for Pecatonica Township  
kkrafthefer@ancelglink.com / 312-604-9126

## **Pecatonica Township sues Township Clerk Kelly Olson Fuca**

On February 24, 2025, Pecatonica Township and its Township Supervisor, Elizabeth Leigh Clark, as Chair and longest-serving Township Trustee, Vernell Sarver, members of the Pecatonica Township Officers Electoral Board, filed a three count complaint against Township Clerk Kelly Olson Fuca in the circuit court for the 17<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit, in Winnebago County, Illinois. The lawsuit seeks to compel Fuca to treat candidates for Pecatonica Township uniformly. Six candidates for Pecatonica Township offices failed to file receipts with the Township Clerk's office demonstrating that they filed statements of economic interests with the Winnebago County Clerk's office. Candidates are required to file such receipts with the Township Clerk. The candidates who failed to file the receipts are :

### Township Supervisor Candidates

Gregory Deppe  
Randal L. Olson (the township clerk's dad)

### Township Clerk

Defendant Kelly M. Fuca (the township clerk herself)

### Highway Commissioner

Vince Mangiaracina  
Thomas R. Menge

### Township Trustee

John Wiegert

Another candidate for township trustee, Brian Boomer, filed his receipt with his nomination papers, as required.

On January 30, 2025, Township Clerk Kelly Olson Fuca, issued an amended ballot certification to the Winnebago County Clerk removing her father's opponent, Gregory Deppe, and

the incumbent Highway Commissioner, Thomas Menge, from the ballot for their failure to file the receipts with her office. However, she did not remove herself, her father, or the two other candidates who also failed to file their receipts with her office. She simply removed her political foes on the ballot.

On February 6, 2025, the Township's Electoral Board, which included Township Clerk Kelly Olson Fuca, voted 3 – 0 that the names of Gregory Deppe and Thomas Menge should appear on the ballot for Township Supervisor and Township Highway Commissioner, respectively, and issued decisions, which were also signed by Township Clerk Kelly Olson Fuca, requiring Olson Fuca to certify the candidates' names to the ballot. Since February 6, 2025, Olson Fuca has refused to do so. On February 11, 2025, the Pecatonica Township Board passed a Resolution regarding the actions of the Clerk, urging her to treat all similarly situated candidates similarly – either leave them all on the ballot, or remove all of the candidates with the same flaws, instead of treating her friends one way and her foes the other way. As of the issuance of this press release, Olson Fuca has refused to adhere to the Electoral Board's decisions or to comply with the Township's Resolution. Candidates Deppe and Menge have retained Attorney Rodney Kimes to also file a lawsuit against Olson Fuca for her discriminatory acts.

The lawsuit filed by Pecatonica Township and Electoral Board members Clark and Sarver, seeks a writ of mandamus to compel Olson Fuca to comply with the electoral board's decisions and to certify the names of Deppe and Menge to the ballot, and to enjoin the printing and distribution of the ballots without their names, to prevent taking choices away from Township voters. It also seeks a declaratory judgment finding that the Olson Fuca cannot override the electoral board's decision or the Township's policy of treating similarly situated candidates uniformly. The lawsuit also seeks to have Olson Fuca pay the Township's attorney's fees.